



SPIRITUAL LIFE MESSAGE

Song:

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

Prayer: As the Spirit leads

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-14

Meditation

Christian Etiquette

On the first Sunday in June, Rev. Marilyn Oliver delivered a message with an unusual title, "Church Etiquette." Her message, which addressed how *church folk often behave*, had some key points of which, we as Christians needed to be reminded. Her message also triggered thoughts as to why the instruction in the above scripture is so important in our community of believers. Before expressing these thoughts, let's look at the definition of etiquette. According to Dictionary.com, etiquette is defined as proprieties of conduct as established in any class or community or for any occasion. Taking the word etiquette and placing Christian in front of it indicates there are behaviors that should be exhibited by God's chosen people.

The instruction in the above Scripture describes virtues we, as Christians, should exhibit, especially toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. Just as we dress for church and/or fellowship with others, with the intent of looking our best, we should dress our minds in the same manner, with the best attributes available. We need to put on the compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love in which Paul exhorts the church of Colossae to clothe itself.

When we fail to dress our minds before leaving home, we are more prone to behaving in manners not pleasing to God. If we

forget our compassion, we may neglect to show sympathy or concern for someone experiencing misfortune. Failure to put on kindness could prevent us from doing good deeds to benefit others. The omission of humility may cause us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought, and in many instances, turn others away from our community of faith.

Without gentleness, we may exhibit harshness and abruptness when interacting with members in our community of believers. We definitely have to remember to put on our patience. Leaving it at home will likely impair our ability to handle life's flare ups in a calm manner. Our need to be clothed with forgiveness is important, yet, because we are human, even when included in our mental attire, it is not easily employed. And finally, love, "Don't leave home without it!" Without the agape love poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, our mental attire will not be complete. It is the final touch needed to exhibit Christian Etiquette as we go about doing the work God planned for us to do.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father. Thank you for the mercy, grace and love you show us every day. Help us to honor and glorify You by exhibiting the virtues outlined in Paul's letter to the church at Colossae as we interact with Your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Challenge for the New Conference Year: As we move forward in our Local, District, Region and Connectional meetings, let us dress our minds in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love.

Polishing Your Communication Power

1 **Apostasy** 2 **Leucine** 3 **Ruach** 4 **Samaritan**

- a ___ Hebrew word for spirit, breath or wind
- b ___ a white, crystalline, water-soluble amino acid
- c ___ the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief
- d ___ a charitable or helpful person

Last Month Answers

1-d 2-a 3-c 4-b

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|---------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Apricots | Election | Iced Tea | Quadrennial |
| Assembly | Flag Day | Juneteenth | Radish |
| Beets | Fathers Day | Melon | Rhubarb |
| Cancer | Foxtail lilies | Moonstone | Summer solstice |
| Cherries | Gemini | Nectarines | Waterlily |
| Childrens Day | Honeysuckle | Pearl | Zucchini |

June Word Search

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E Q R A B Q Q C I D Q H Y P A L Q Y V P P J B F
W J G N W F K I D C T S A A U C V T Z A U Z O E
E U K N J B E E T S E I T U D I U T U S M X G L
V N R A R L L Y L A K D K E Y S H J A M T Y A K
A E O C R W Q R L K P A T N K M R E N A U A Y C
L T Z R X R H T A B G R A E E S B E I E R D A U
E E O E F R R Z Y E M I I L A R T L H D D G D S
X E L T H P H E E S P E E C A V L S K T V A S Y
A N Z A P B K U E P C C S B O I R U M X A L N E
N T I W H C O I G T Q U S L T U M A D G F E N
D H X N V Y R X T I E H Z I A F S M K E F I R O
R H M U I R P Q O M R P E B G H U E B Q R K D H
I R D M E M G N K B O S Q W A E L R I B B J L G
T S E H T G E W A T E R L I L Y A S G E R F I B
E C C G Q B A G O B L U D D F A I O U V H U H F
N M O O N S T O N E D T H S Z H N L A N V H C M
O W E G R P H A L O I R T U G U N S L F D A B G
L E W S Y V G R P U W Y C D O B E T I J S U J V
E G P S Z M Y K S V S C Y X K A R I Y U W R K J
M C G V P A Z F R A H V U F D C D C W S C F V P
X T V B X H W I E I W Y S C Q B A E E F Q M H R
P X Z K W V E U N F A N H N M T U X N H Y Y I D
U N E C T A R I N E S C E I X I Q Q S T M H S N
Y J D B Y H T P F K E T R Z K Q E Y C A N C E R
  
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